

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 10831 091645Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06

PRS-01 /036 W

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P 091239Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6218

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10831

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US ET PDEV

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE

REF: STATE 211852

1. APPRECIATE RECEIPT REFTEL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO  
CHAIRMAN OF EPMG.

2. SOME CONFUSION HAS NOW APPEARED ON WHETHER SEPT. 13 IS SOLE AND  
ONLY NATIONAL DAY OF EPMG. MOFA PROTOCOL, BESIEGED BY MANY EM-  
BASSIES FOR CLEAR STATEMENT, IS NOT SAYING SEPT. 13 IS THE MOST  
IMPORTANT NATIONAL DAY, BUT ETHIOPIA HAS TRADITIONALLY HAD SEVERAL  
SUCH DAYS (LIBERATION DAY, EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY, ETC.) AND PERHAPS  
LIBERATION DAY (FROM ITALIANS) IN MARCH MIGHT ALSO BE RETAINED  
AS A "NATIONAL DAY."

3. MANY EMBASSIES PLAN TO SEND CONGRATULATORY NATIONAL DAY MES-  
SAGES SEPT. 13; SOME STIFF-NECKED PROTOCOLAIRE EMBASSIES WILL SEND  
NOTHING UNLESS THEY SEE IN WRITING A MOFA STATEMENT OF FORMAL  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS DAY.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT SEPT. 13 IS CERTAINLY THE MAJOR NATIONAL DAY,  
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER EPMG PERPETUATES OTHER DAYS AS WELL. CONFU-  
SION IS MORE LIKELY RESULT OF ARDUOUS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS  
WITHIN RULING MILITARY GROUP THAN OF ANY REAL UNCERTAINTY ABOUT  
PRINCIPAL NATIONAL DAY. THEREFORE, UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE,  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 10831 091645Z

WE WILL TRANSMIT PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE REFTEL TO EPMG ON SEPT. 11.

WE HAVE CONSIDERED, AND REJECTED AS UNDESIRABLE, ALTERNATIVE OF  
REQUESTING WHITE HOUSE AGREEMENT TO CHANGE WORDING FROM "ON THE  
OCCASION OF YOUR NATIONAL DAY" TO "ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT."  
HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 09 SEP 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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